

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 988

By Bass

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Joe Hardin upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Joe Hardin, who has devoted more than twenty-five years to the education and instruction of Tennessee high school students and athletes; on March 15, 2008, Mr. Hardin will be inducted into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Hall of Fame, a most befitting recognition of his outstanding service to Tennessee high school athletics; and

WHEREAS, a native of Sevier County, Joe Hardin's long athletic career began while he was a football player at Sevier County High School, from which he graduated in 1948, and continued during his years at Carson-Newman College, where he played football and earned a bachelor's degree in 1952; and

WHEREAS, after serving in the United States Air Force from 1953 to 1956, and is serving as the Air Force's athletic director, Mr. Hardin was a teacher and football coach in Wytheville, Virginia, from 1957 to 1961, during which time he also earned a master's degree from George Peabody College; and

WHEREAS, Joe Hardin then moved to Giles County, where he became a teacher and coach of the boys' basketball team, the girls' basketball team, and the football team at Giles County High School; and

WHEREAS, as principal and boys' basketball coach from 1965 to 1985, Mr. Hardin utilized his strong leadership skills to guide Giles County High School to many successes. For

instance, he ably navigated the difficulties that arose from the process of integration in 1965, and as a result of his uniform adherence to the most laudable of principles, Giles County High School became the first school in the county to earn membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1980; and

WHEREAS, the Giles County High School athletic program also prospered under his tutelage, as it won five state championships during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, after his retirement from the post of principal in 1985, Joe Hardin continued his successful coaching career with the Martin Methodist College basketball team from 1985 to 1995 and with Alabama's Athens State University from 1995 to 2004; and

WHEREAS, an important part of his professional community, Mr. Hardin belonged to many notable organizations; he was President of the Giles County Education Association, Chief Negotiator for the Giles County Board of Education, a representative to the National Education Association, and served on many evaluation teams for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious career, Joe Hardin has deservedly received numerous accolades and honors, including the Martin Methodist Spirit Award, induction into the Martin Methodist Sports Hall of Fame, and the Pulaski Rotary Club's Paul Harris Fellow Award; he has also had several scholarships given in his name; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hardin has long been supported by his loving wife, Dolores, and his children, Scott, Bobby, Steve, and Cathy; and

WHEREAS, for his many accomplishments, his impeccable moral standards, and impressive work ethic, Joe Hardin has been selected for induction into the TSSAA Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hardin is a man of true character and commitment, and he exemplifies the type of selfless community servant and civic leader who fellow Tennesseans admire for their tireless efforts in mentoring the State's youth and guiding them with solid principles and high standards, whether on the athletic field or in the classroom; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we join the family and friends of Joe Hardin in congratulating him upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, honor and commend his substantial legacy as an administrator, teacher, and coach, even as we offer our thanks for the dedication that he has shown our State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.